

A September 2000 GAO report found that 33 of the nation's 50 busiest airports are located in areas with poor air quality and already subject to more stringent CAA requirements (177 DEN A-1, 09/12/00).

Airports are subject to CWA requirements because jet fuel runoff containing ethylene glycol and other de-icing and anti-icing agents have been known to contribute to water quality problems.

All three amendments were approved by unanimous consent in committee, Melanie Alvord, Stevens' press secretary, told BNA. The entire bill, the Aviation Delay Prevention Act, will go to the full Senate for consideration.

Two House committees have cleared similar anti-trust exemption legislation (HR 1407) that does not include the environmental amendments.

A congressional source told BNA that Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), chairman of the House Transportation Committee, is likely to introduce similar environmental provisions in September as an entirely separate bill.

By Mike Ferullo

Energy

Environment, Health Costs From Use Of Fossil Fuels Examined in EU Report

BRUSSELS—The cost of electricity production from coal and oil would double and the cost of natural gas production would jump by 30 percent if external costs such as damage to the environment and health were taken into account, the European Commission said in a report July 27.

Based on the first research of its kind and conducted jointly with the United States over the past 10 years using an "impact pathway methodology," the report found that the external environmental costs amount to between 1 percent and 2 percent of the European Union's gross domestic product, the commission said.

The new report also said that wind and hydroelectric power present the lowest external environment and social costs. At the same time, the conclusions drawn from the research state that "nuclear power involves relatively low external costs due to its minimal impact on global warming and its low probability of accidents in EU power plants."

Two Possible Ways to Account for Costs. A report accompanying the research results proposed two ways to take account of the environmental and health costs from the use of fossil fuels.

"One possibility would be by taxing the damaging fuels and technologies resulting in a substantial increase of energy prices," the report said. "For example if the external cost of producing electricity from coal were to be factored into electricity bills, between 2 and 8 cents per kilowatt-hour would have to be added to the current price in the majority of EU member states."

"Another solution would be to encourage or subsidize cleaner technologies that allow avoiding socioenvironmental costs," the report said. "Since taxation on an EU level is very difficult to achieve, the commission has opted to encourage the second solution. In February 2001, it published the community guidelines on state

aid for environmental protection, which explicitly allows for member states to grant operating aid to new plants producing renewable energy that will be calculated on the basis of the external costs avoided."

However, those EU state aid rules said the amount of the aid granted to the renewable energy producers must not exceed 5 cents per kilowatt-hour.

The European Commission proposed an energy taxation bill in the early 1990s as a way to reduce carbon dioxide levels, but various versions of the legislation have been blocked in the Council of Ministers for almost 10 years.

The report can be obtained from the European Commission's publication office in Luxembourg at (352-29) 294-2455. The reference numbers are Ref. 19083 and Ref. 18528

Pesticides

Senate Seeks 30-Day Deadline for EPA To Report on Treated Wood Assessment

The Senate Aug. 2 agreed to a 30-day deadline for the Environmental Protection Agency to report to Congress on the risks posed to children from wooden playground equipment treated with chromated copper arsenate, an arsenic-containing pesticide.

The amendment, sponsored by Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), was part of the Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies appropriations bill (S. 1216) passed Aug. 2. The legislation would provide \$7.75 billion in fiscal year 2002 for the Environmental Protection Agency (149 DEN A-7, 8/3/01).

The 30 days would begin to run from enactment of the appropriations law.

The House version of the appropriations legislation does not contain a similar provision on CCA-treated wood, and the matter will have to be resolved in conference, a Nelson spokeswoman told BNA Aug. 3.

The report would include:

- EPA's "most up-to-date understanding" of the potential health and safety risks to children playing on or around CCA-treated wood playground equipment,

- EPA's "current recommendations" to state and local governments about the continued use of CCA-treated wood playground equipment, and

- an assessment of whether consumers considering purchase of the CCA-wood playground equipment are adequately informed about the health effects associated with arsenic.

In floor debate, Sens. Nelson, Barbara Mikulski (D-Md), Christopher "Kit" Bond (R-Mo.), Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.), and Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) spoke in favor of the amendment.

On the floor, Mikulski said conferees will need to consult with EPA about how long it will take for the agency to collect its information for the report.

Nelson has also introduced separate legislation (S. 877) to require mandatory warning labels on the wood, to tell consumers the arsenic in the wood can cause cancer.

EPA already has had a voluntary program in place with the treated wood industry, trying to increase consumer awareness about the risks posed by improper

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